Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 14 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Thursday 15 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 14 Dec 2022 at 02:30 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High confidence for a continuation of very cold northerly weather with frequent snow showers in the north until Thursday, drier further south. Turning brighter on Thursday but remaining cold. Lower confidence for a change in conditions towards the weekend with a milder interlude of weather and some snowmelt at lower levels.

Headline for Wednesday 14 Dec 2022: Occasional snow showers in the north, bitterly cold in strong northerly winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 14 Dec 2022

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Partly cloudy (night)	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability					
40%	40%	40%	40%	30%	50%

Forecast for Wednesday 14 Dec 2022

Weather: Frequent snow showers expected overnight for more northern ranges and continuing during the day, a few bright or sunny spells in places but showers may band into longer spells at times. Further south towards Glen Shiel and Glen Affric will be dry with a few brighter spells. With strong northerly winds blizzard conditions are a possibility in the north and a severe wind chill is expected. Showers becoming heavier and more frequent again in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 50% low cloud around showers, best chance of brighter conditions for southern ranges.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud layers above 400m can be expected for areas in the north around Torridon and Caithness hills in wintery showers, further west and south cloud bases will be scattered above 700m in any showers. Visibility will be good out with showers but turn very poor in wintery showers with the potential for whiteout conditions in heavy showers, full winter clothing is advisable and good navigation equipment.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Forecast for Wednesday 14 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	21/25 N	27/31 N	23/29 N	24/32 NW	27/35 NW	28/36 NW	25/33 N
900	19/22 N	23/28 N	21/26 N	23/31 NW	26/33 NW	26/34 NW	24/31 N
600	14/17 N	15/19 N	13/19 N	16/24 NW	18/25 NW	19/27 NW	16/23 N
300	1/16 N	1/19 N	3/20 N	6/24 NW	6/27 NW	7/28 N	6/25 N
Glen	2/9 N	6/16 N	4/12 NW	7/19 N	10/24 N	12/26 N	9/21 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-7/-16	-8/-18	-7/-16	-6/-15	-6/-16	-6/-15	-4/-13
900	-7/-15	-7/-16	-6/-15	-6/-14	-6/-14	-5/-14	-4/-12
600	-4/-11	-5/-12	-4/-10	-4/-11	-4/-10	-3/-10	-2/-8
300	-3/-6	-3/-5	-2/-5	-2/-6	-2/-6	-1/-5	-1/-4
Glen	-2/-4	-1/-4	-0/-3	1/-2	1/-3	1/-3	2/-2
Freezing Level*	00m	00m	00m	00m	100m	200m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill can be expected and blizzards are a possibility for northern ranges like Ben Hope, serious winter conditions on the mountains with snow showers at all levels. Strongest gusts likely around snow showers.

Forecast for Thursday 15 Dec 2022

Weather: Wintery showers continuing on Thursday morning in the north but showers tending to die out in the afternoon with some bright or sunny spells, some mist and fog forming in prone spots as winds ease later in the day. Severe wind chill continuing.

Maximum wind: Northerly turning northwesterly 15 gusting 25 mph, easing to southwesterly 10mph later.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% improving to 80% later as showers ease, however hill fog may become extensive later.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered low cloud above 500m in showers especially around the Caithness hills and Ben Assynt, patchier further south where there will be less showers. Visibility good out with showers but becoming poor or very poor in wintery showers at times. Visibility becoming less than 1km in hill fog later.

Temperature: **Glens:** Minus 8 Celsius rising to plus 1 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 6 Celsius.
Freezing level: 100m rising to 400m for a time.

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